UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.91/L.51
3 December 1997

ENGLISH ONLY

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report of Ukraine

Paper submitted by Ukraine**

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by the National Council of Ukraine on Geographical Names.

97-37656 (E) 060198 070198

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In September 1993 the National Council on geographical names under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was established.
The functions of the Council consist in coordination of the activities on standardization of geographical names in the country.
With the assistance of the National Council were elaborated:

- a draft of the Law "On geographical names in Ukraine" which is to be adopted by the Parliament of Ukraine in 1998
- a series of guidelines and glossaries for cartographers who compile maps and atlases: "Provisional rules on collecting geographical names for topographic maps"; glossaries of geographical names "Australia and Oceania", "South and Central America", "Africa", "Names of States and territories of the world"
- "The rules on transcription of Ukrainian alphabet by Roman letters (Ukrainian latynytsia)" which are to be adopted by the Government of Ukraine at the end of 1997
- an historical-geographical expedition of pupils "Microtoponyms of Ukraine" was organized and in course of the first and second stages of the expedition 8470 microtoponyms have been collected; the expedition is to be completed to the end of 1997
- a series of national and international conferences and seminars on geographical names were carried out during 1995-1997 (May 1995, October-November 1995, October 1997)
- works began on formation of geographical names register of Ukraine as applied to the topographic map scale 1:100 000.

National Standardization of Geographical Names (field collection and office processing)

Collection and processing of geographical names is carried out in accordance with "Temporary Rules of Geographical Names Collection for Topographic Maps".
Finally this problem will be solved after adoption of the Law of Ukraine "About Geographical Names". The draft of the Law was elaborated and submitted to several ministries and authorities of Ukraine for approval.

Toponymic Guidelines for Cartographic and Other Publishing Houses

"Temporary Rules of Geographical Names Collection for Topographic Maps" were elaborated and implemented.
"The Rules of Geographical Names Writing on Topographic Maps Published in Ukrainian and Foreign Languages" are being worked out.

The guidelines were compiled on transcription in Ukrainian of geographical names on the territories of Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Chezh Republic, Slovakia, France, Sweden, Romania and Moldova, as well as on transcription of geographic names on the territories of English, German and Spanish speaking countries.

Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Glossaries of Geographical Names "Australia and Oceania", "South and Central America", "Africa" have been made in Ukraine (for using on school maps).
The creation of National Register of Geographical Names of Ukraine on the base of the topographic map scale 1:100 000 is carried out.
Glossaries "Adjective forms of Geographical Names in Ukraine" and "Lost and Renamed Settlements in Ukraine During Last 50 years" are prepared for publication.

Romanization Systems

"The Rules on Transcription of Ukrainian Alphabet by Roman Letters (Ukrainian "latynytsia") will be submitted to the Government of Ukraine for adoption in the variant, which was presented on the 18th Session of United Nations Experts Group on Geographical Names in Geneva (12-13 August, 1996), according to the remarks made by UNO experts.

Country Names

Glossary "Names of Countries and Territories of the World" was prepared. The geographical names are given in Ukrainian and in the official language of the corresponding country.

Exonyms

There is no unified list of exonyms in Ukraine. Some exonyms are given in guidelines on the Ukrainian transcription of foreign geographical names and in the glossary "Names of Countries and Territories of the World".

Other Information

On 23 September 1993 Decree N 783 "On Creation of the National Council on Geographical Names" by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was adopted.

On 16-20 May 1995 a seminar on toponymics was held in Kyiv. It was carried on by National Council on Geographical Names together with American experts Rendall Flynn and Herd Quinting. The representatives of Ukraine, Russia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kurgyz Republic were present at the seminar.
On 30 October - 3 November 1995 All-Ukrainian scientific conference on the subject of "Creation of National Database of Geographical Names" was organized in Kyiv. 75 experts took part in this conference.
On 1-3 October 1997 in Dnipropetrovs'k the 7th All-Ukrainian Onomastic Conference was held.
Under the guidance of the National Council on Geographical Names and the Ministry of Education in 1995-1996 the 1st and 2nd stages of All-Ukrainian historical-geographical expedition of pupils "Microtoponyms of Ukraine" were performed. During the first stage of this expedition 2670 microtoponyms were collected, during the second stage - 5800 microtoponyms. The third stage of this expedition will be carried out in 1997.
The Law of Ukraine "About Geographical Names" was elaborated in 1997. It will be submitted for adoption at the end of 1997.

Conclusion

1. During a short period in Ukraine the base was created of the system of using geographical names in accordance with the UNO norms and rules.
2. Activities of the National Council of Geographical Names organized on voluntary basis proved to ineffective.
3. It would be expedient to establish in Ukraine a constant functioning organ dealing with geographical names; such an organ is foreseen in the above mentioned draft of the Law "On Geographical Names in Ukraine".